



To: Chairman Kevin Cotter and Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Representative Paul Muxlow
Representative Harvey Santana
Senator Steven Bieda
Senator Rick Jones

From: Michigan Retailers Association

Re: Support House Bills 4534, 4755, 5061-5062 and Senate Bills 378, 386, 603-604

Date: February 6, 2014

Michigan Retailers Association strongly supports efforts to address animal abuse and neglect. Our pet retailers believe that every animal should have a safe and loving home. That is why retailers often allow adoption partners to use their locations and resources to facilitate same-day on-site adoptions.

While we do not feel that the bills go far enough to raise public awareness of animal abusers, we are supportive of the legislation as amended. An animal abuse registry that is free to access and available to the public would allow concerned individuals and neighbors to check the registry and report a concern if they observe concerning behavior. While the ICHAT system would allow an individual to check the system, the \$10 per search fee may be prohibitive for concerned citizens.

Animal abusers tend to obtain pets through means that do not require a background check or personal information. Pets sold through craigslist or on the side of the road are much easier to obtain than through an animal shelter or animal protection agency. A campaign to raise public awareness on how to report incidents of animal abuse could help address the problem of animal abuse.

Michigan Retailers Association appreciates the sponsor's efforts to reduce animal abuse and neglect through this legislation. We also are grateful that clarifying language was added that allows retailers to help animal protection agencies to find good homes for homeless pets without placing additional regulations or increased liability on retailers.

We urge a yes vote on House Bills 4534 (H-7), 4755, 5061-5062 and Senate Bills 378 (S-3 with amendments), 386, and 603-604.